



**MINUTES – METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016, 4:00 P.M.  
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,  
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bill Ardern, Dr. Mary Jan Bancroft, Dennis Barger, Dr. Kent Barrabee, James Cook, Jen Darland, Dr. David Doré, George Favela, Jennifer Flores, Steve Freeman, Molly Gilbert, Javier Herrera, Teri Laguna, Alexander Lewis, Beth Matthias-Loghry, Paul Lovelis, Luis Manjarrez, Rafael Meza, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Jennifer Sprung, Dr. Alan Storm, Dr. Kasey Urquidez, Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Pat Wiedhopf, Maggie Zheng.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, Leshawn Bowen, Richard Elias, Deborah Embry, Guillermo Figueroa, Jo Riester, Regina Romero, James Wiltbank.

NON-COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kay Schreiber, Patricia Rotondi, David Rodriguez, Edward Nossem.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – PAT WIEDHOPF

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL – PAT WIEDHOPF

Roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – PAT WIEDHOPF

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all attendees.

4.0 APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 17, 2016 MEETING MINUTES – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion to approve: Dr. Alan Storm

Second: George Favela

Motion carried unanimously.

5.0 APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion: George Favela

Second: Jennifer Flores

Motion carried unanimously.

6.0 AZ EDUCATION & CAREER ACTION PLAN (ECAP) – KAY SCHREIBER

Kay Schreiber, Arizona Department of Education College & Career Ready and Arizona School Counselors Coordinator, presented on the Arizona Education & Career Action Plan (ECAP), which is designed to manage FAFSA completion in high schools throughout Arizona. She presented on the history of the program - the fact that one reason for high dropout rates was the lack of Individual Learning Plans, and ECAP addresses these issues and more. Informational flyers and pamphlets were distributed,

and Ms. Schreiber took questions from the Commissioners. Further information on the program can be obtained by contacting Ms. Schreiber at the College & Career Ready office at 602-542-5353 or James Buchanan, Deputy Associate Superintendent, ECAP & Leadership Development at 602-542-5510.

## 7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS – PAT WIEDHOPF

### 7.1 Budget – Bill Ardern

The budget is tracking appropriately; the Executive Director's Report shows current funding applications and awards status.

MEC Commissioner and JTED Superintendent Dr. Alan Storm thanked the Commission for its support for the restoration of JTED funding from the state legislature.

The MEC has received a 4-year funding through College Success Arizona from the Helios Education Foundation for the Regional College Access Center, and work is underway to implement the provisions of this funding. Titled College Knowing & Going, this initiative brings college access support to 18 school districts statewide; the MEC is the Southern Arizona Component and will work in conjunction with Northern Arizona and Central Arizona components. In addition to Pima County, the MEC will be responsible for Nogales.

The MEC has completed the 2016-2017 RFP application process with both the City of Tucson and Pima County. We have invited City Manager Michael Ortega to present on the City budget at the April 20<sup>th</sup> MEC meeting.

### 7.2 Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon – Dr. June Webb -Vignery

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon will take place on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel, 7350 S. Nogales Highway. We have 22 tables at present. The 2016 Honorees are: Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. John Pedicone; Education Advocate Award, General Ron Shoopman; Teacher Award - Jennifer Anglin, Flowing Wells Junior High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District; Corporate Award – Cox Communications; Counselor Award – Dr. Judy Bowers; Small Business Award – Elliott Accounting; and Youth Award – Nayra Ochoa, Rincon High School, Tucson USD. MEC Commissioners are encouraged to contact their constituencies to procure tables.

### 7.3 Appointments –Deborah Embry

Reappointments of Javier Herrera, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Pat Wiedhopf, Molly Gilbert, and Teri Laguna to the MEC:

Motion: Dr. David Doré

Second: James Cook

Motion carried unanimously.

### 7.4 YAC/TTC – Maggie Zheng & Leshawn Bowen

Maggie Zheng debriefed the Commission on the Student Civic Engagement Day which took place on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at the AZ State Capitol. 27 students from 6 area school districts (Amphitheater, Catalina Foothills, Flowing Wells, Sunnyside, Tucson, and Vail) travelled to the State Capitol in Phoenix for the Student Civic Engagement Day. The group consisted of the MEC's Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress (YAC/TTC) members, as well as student representatives from schools that had attended the Teen Town Hall. Six adult chaperones accompanied the students on the trip and provided assistance.

High schools represented included Amphitheater, Andrada Polytechnic, Catalina Foothills, Catalina Magnet, Cholla, Desert View, Flowing Wells, JTED, Rincon, Salpointe Catholic, Sunnyside, University, and Vail Academy High Schools.

The students met with Senate and House leadership to discuss education funding, teacher retention, and school infrastructure & technology issues. A Report is being compiled and will be sent to MEC Commissioners, elected officials, school superintendents and governing board members.

7.5 Issues –George Favela

No action.

7.6 Regional College Access Center – David Rodriguez

David Rodriguez presented on current RCAC activities including FAFSA drives at Sunnyside, desert View, Tucson, and Pueblo High Schools; Student Ambassador activities, three Questbridge scholarship recipients, and one Gates Scholarship recipient.

The Helios Education Foundation has committed approximately \$5.2 million to the College Knowing and Going Initiative over four years to fund all juniors taking the ACT exam in 19 Arizona school districts, implementation of college access activities including application to a postsecondary institution, FAFSA completion, and a multi-year research survey. A Helios funding of \$1,800,000 administered by College Success Arizona through the Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) will provide for coordination through three sites located in southern, central, and northern Arizona. They are: Metropolitan Education Commission's Regional College Access Center (RCAC) for the Southern region; Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) for the Central region; and the Northern Arizona College Resource Center for the Northern region.

The following Southern Arizona school districts and schools are participants:

FLOWING WELLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Flowing Wells, Sentinel Peak High Schools;

SUNNYSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Desert View, Sunnyside High Schools;

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Catalina, Cholla, Palo Verde, Project More, Pueblo, Rincon, Sabino, Sahuaro, Santa Rita, Tucson, University High Schools;

VAIL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Andrada Polytechnic, Cienega, Empire, Pantano, Vail Academy High Schools;

NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Nogales, Pierson Vocational High Schools;

A Kick-Off Press Conference is scheduled in Phoenix for Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and the Southern Arizona Kickoff for Thursday, April 14, 2016 at Catalina High School Auditorium; Mayor Rothschild and Pima County Supervisor Richard Elías, as Co-Chairs of the Regional College Access Center, will speak. Other elected officials, school superintendents, and the media will also be in attendance.

7.7 Key to Employment Symposium – Ed Nossem

The Key to Employment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Symposium took place on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at the U of A Student Union. We had 358 students,

34 Chaperones/teachers, and 56 exhibitors. Everything ran smoothly, and the student evaluations were all positive.

8.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion to approve: Dr. Kent Barrabee

Second: Dr. Mary Jan Bancroft

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.